

REMARKS

Claims 31 to 60 were pending. The Examiner indicated allowability of claim 41, but rejected claims 31, 32, 34, 35, 39, 40, and 42 to 58, and objected to claims 33, 36 to 38, 59 and 60.

By this amendment claim 31 is cancelled, claim 32 is cancelled, claim 33 is amended, claim 34 is amended, claim 35 is cancelled, claim 36 is amended, claims 39 and 40 are amended, claims 48, 49, 53 and 54 are amended, claim 55 is cancelled, claims 56 to 58 are cancelled, claim 59 is amended, and claims 61 to 63 are added. Allowed claim 41 is amended to correct a typographical error. Further, specification is amended to also correct a typographical error. This typographical error is obvious in light of, for example, paragraph [0049]. This text in the specification makes it clear that the greater than sign (>) should be the less than sign (<) and "1.0" should be "1". It is submitted that the amendments introduce no new subject matter, and place the claims in an allowable form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC§ 102

Claims 31, 32, 34, 35, 39, 40 and 48-59 were rejected as being anticipated by MAKHOL (4,485,880).

By the amendments hereby presented, claims 31 and 32 have been cancelled. Further, claim 34 have been made dependent upon amended claim 33, which has been rewritten in independent form. Further, claim 35 has been cancelled, and claims 39 and 40 made dependent upon amended claim 36, which has been rewritten in independent form. Further, claims 48 to 54 have been made dependent upon amended independent claim 36. Claim 55 has been cancelled and claims 56 to 58 have been cancelled. Claim 59 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 61 to 63 have been added, which claims are dependent upon amended claim 59. Claims 61 to 63 substantially correspond to the subject matter of cancelled claims 56 to 58.

It is respectfully submitted that by these amendments the claim rejections raised by the Examiner are hereby overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC§ 103

Claims 42 to 47 were rejected as being unpatentable over MAKOHL. Claims 42 to 47 are indirectly dependent upon amended claim 36.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objection to claims 42 to 47 is rendered moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that previous claims 33, 36 to 38, 59 and 60 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment claim 33 has been rewritten in independent form, so as to include all of the features of previous claim 32. By this amendment claim 36 has been rewritten in independent form so as to include all of the features of previous claim 35. Claims 37 and 38 are dependent upon amended claim 36. Further by this amendment claim 59 has been rewritten in independent form so as to include all of the features of previous claim 55. Claim 60 is dependent upon amended claim 59.

New claims 61 to 63 corresponding to the features of previous claims 56 to 58 have been added, these claims being dependent upon amended independent claim 59.


CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that all independent claims have been distinguished from the art cited in the Office Action. It is also clear that all claims that depend from these independent claims are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the same reasons as well as for the additional features that they recite.

In view of the above, all rejections have been overcome so that the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should any issues remain, a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss the same in order to expedite the allowance of all the claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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